

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-15, 18, 19, and 21-24 are pending. By this preliminary amendment, claims 1, 10-12, 18, 21 and 22 are amended, and claims 23 and 24 are added. Claims 11, 18, 21 and 22 are amended to correspond to previous amendments made to parent claims and to clarify certain terms in these claims. No range of equivalents is intended to be surrendered by these amendments. Claims 23 and 24 claim subject matter to which Applicants are entitled. No new matter is added.

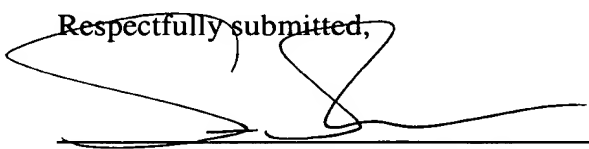
Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the interview. Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed the Col and Shang references, the independent claims 1, 10 and 12 and differences between the claims and the Col and Shang references, as well as possible amendments to clarify these differences. Specifically, these amendments were discussed as likely overcoming the references since the combination of Col and Shang fail to disclose or suggest either "forcing the parallel issue of at least two of the plurality of microinstructions simultaneously regardless of normal conflict checking" or "determining whether an exception occurs in any of the microinstructions, before writing results of the executing to result registers wherein the determining step is performed prior to any writing step and the method does not write any results to temporary registers." The above-identified amendments clarify these differences. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully assert that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt reexamination and allowance of claims 1-5, 7-16 and 18-22 is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: **October 29, 2003**



Sean S. Wooden, Reg. No.: 43,997
Andrews Kurth LLP
1701 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
Tel. (202) 662-2738
Fax (202) 662-2739